

HONORING THE LIFE AND
MEMORY OF DR. HAROLD HILD

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Dr. Harold Hild. I met Dr. Hild when he was my English professor at Northeastern Illinois University. Dr. Hild was well known for his special commitment to the Latino students at the University, and we were many. A large number were native English speakers who needed improvement in writing, and others were learning English as a second language. Dr. Hild stood by us and believed in our potential even after so many had written us off as ill-prepared. He worked tirelessly to develop an English-language program at the University that included tutoring and guidance for students who wanted to improve their language skills and succeed at the University.

Long before the culture wars, we were fighting to learn English, and he was fighting beside us. He defended us like we were his own children. When Northeastern Illinois University refused to give Dr. Hild tenure and attempted to let him go, I organized a group of students to stage a sit-in to demand that he be reinstated. We were successful, and Dr. Hild was placed back on the faculty. Dr. Hild later became the Chairman of the Communication, Media and Theater Department. Dr. Hild defended us, and so it was our duty to defend him. In fact, Madam Speaker, I think that this probably represented my first steps as a community organizer.

Dr. Hild and I worked together on the English-language program to ensure that Latino students at the University had every opportunity to succeed. That program still continues today, and is part of his significant legacy not only to the University but also to students everywhere. He saw the potential in me, and he saw the potential in all of us. Dr. Hild is and should always remain an inspiration to countless generations of Northeastern Illinois University students. I only hope that those of us who were touched by his life will continue to be inspired to make a difference in someone else's life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday I missed the three rollcall votes of the day. Unfortunately I missed these votes because I was detained in my district.

Had I been present I would have voted Yea on rollcall vote No. 832 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended—H.R. 1168—Veterans Retraining Act of 2009.

Had I been present I would have voted Yea on rollcall vote No. 833 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 291—Recognizing the crucial role of assistance dogs in

helping wounded veterans live more independent lives, expressing gratitude to The Tower of Hope, and supporting the goals and ideals of creating a Tower of Hope Day.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted Yea on rollcall vote No. 834 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—S. 509—To authorize a major medical facility project at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Walla Walla, Washington, and for other purposes.

REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVES TO
HEALTH CARE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, A 2,000 page, 1.2 trillion dollar health care takeover is headed to this floor. Given its abrupt arrival, I hope the Speaker will open the floor to the 53 alternatives presented from Republicans.

Republicans continue to offer positive health care solutions, but our alternatives are not being scheduled. Our solutions will give Americans access to affordable, accessible, and quality health care that is centered around the patient.

Unlike PELOSI's health care takeover, our alternatives do not contain any of the cuts to seniors' Medicare benefits. Or the costly tax increases and job-killing mandates. Our alternatives will not sever the doctor-patient relationship, or put a trillion dollar price tag on the backs of our children and grandchildren—threatening devaluation of seniors' fixed incomes.

We need to promote the vision German Chancellor Angela Merkel described today for America to be the land of unlimited opportunity. The Big Government takeover will limit opportunity.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, November 2, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 832—"yea;" rollcall 833—"yea;" rollcall 834—"yea."

CELEBRATING UT DALLAS:
CREATING THE FUTURE SINCE 1969

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker it is a great honor to recognize a fine

higher educational institution—the University of Texas at Dallas. Beginning this fall, the University of Texas at Dallas marks its 40th year as a Texas public university and a member of The University of Texas system.

Born at the dawn of the information age, UT Dallas helped pioneer new fields in science and technology and created sought-after degree programs that did not exist a generation ago. These include geospatial information science, neuroscience, bioinformatics, nanotechnology and materials science, among others.

The University has a unique past: built from the top down, first a research institute, then a graduate school, and finally becoming a full university with the admission of its first freshman class in 1990.

Located in the center of one of the most dynamic economic and demographic regions in the nation, UT Dallas owes its existence to three entrepreneurs, Eugene McDermott, Cecil Green and J. Erik Jonsson, who deeply valued education and entrepreneurial activity.

These individuals, who also founded Texas Instruments, found themselves importing talent from outside the state while the region's bright young people pursued educations elsewhere. Having identified the need, the Founders took action to serve both their enterprise and the region, establishing the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, which in 1961 was renamed the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, SCAS. The center recruited some of the best scientific talent in the nation.

In 1969, the founders bequeathed the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies to the State of Texas, and then-Governor Preston Smith signed the bill establishing UT Dallas, thus fulfilling the mandate to create science and technology educational opportunities in North Texas. By law, the University offered only graduate degrees until 1975. In 1990, the University admitted its first freshman class.

The transition from a graduate research facility to a university with an emphasis on engineering, mathematics, the sciences and management has been facilitated by the excellence of the UT Dallas faculty. Among them are four members of the National Academies—Dr. Ray Baughman, Dr. David Daniel, Dr. Brian Berry and Dr. Don Shaw—and Nobel laureate, Dr. Russell Hulse. Other Nobel laureates have included the late Dr. Polykarp Kusch and the late Dr. Alan G. MacDiarmid.

During the past decade, the University's teaching mission has expanded, its external research funding nearly doubled, its program offerings grew and its reputation has gained notice nationally. The student body has grown, even as quantitative markers of excellence—average entering SAT scores, graduation rates, numbers of distinguished scholarship holders and national merit scholarship winners—have also moved up.

UT Dallas has a unique past, and its aspirations to become a top national research university promise an even more remarkable future. Congratulations to everyone who helped make 40 years of educating the best and brightest a reality at UT Dallas. Thank you for all you do to improve Texas. God bless you and I salute you.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE LATE SENIOR DISTRICT
JUDGE SOLOMON CASSEB, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Senior District Judge Solomon Casseb, Jr., for his dedication and contributions to the city of San Antonio and South Texas community.

Judge Casseb was born in 1915 in San Antonio, Texas. He attended St. Mary's University and University of Texas Law. By 1938, he was admitted to practice and later was enlisted as a Private in the United States Air Force at the break of World War II. After his service overseas, he was honorably discharged with the rank of Major to return home to a private practice of law. Thereafter, he was appointed for 2 terms as Judge of the 57th District Court and later served as Presiding Judge of the District Courts of Bexar County, as well as Presiding Judge for the Fourth Administrative District. It was 1985 when Judge Casseb acquired senior status and began serving as Senior District Judge of Texas. Shortly after in 1987, he received the Texas Bar Foundation's Outstanding Jurist Award. He was a member of the Advisory Committee to the Supreme Court of Texas and the Joint Task Force. Judge Casseb's contribution to the community of law was further recognized when he presided over the critical phases of the Pennzoil versus Texaco case, which resulted in the largest jury award in American jurisprudence. The judgment of that case has been upheld by the Appellate Courts of Texas and proves monumental to the state and Judge Casseb's work.

The progression of Judge Casseb's career went hand and hand with the numerous awards, recognitions, and appointments he received. Early on in his career, he was chosen the Outstanding Ex-Student of St. Mary's University. In 1965, Judge Casseb was named Outstanding Judge of 1965 by the Texas Trial Lawyers Association. Thereafter, he received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the San Antonio Bar Association, San Antonio Bar Foundation and the Laredo/Webb County Bar Association. By 1991, Judge Casseb was named Mr. South Texas at the Annual Washington Birthday Celebration in Laredo. A year later, the University of Texas Law School established the Judge Solomon Casseb, Jr., School in his honor.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, accomplishments, and commitment of the late Senior District Judge Solomon Casseb, Jr., and I thank you for this time.

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JOSE "ROY" PARRA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Army SFC Jose "Roy"

Parra, a Salinas, CA native who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service of our nation in 1950.

Born in 1927, Army Sergeant First Class Parra spent his days as a young child delivering the newspaper, The Salinas Californian. Roy learned early on the importance of family and hard work by contributing his wages to his family. At the age of 17, he joined the Merchant Marines and later joined the Navy before enlisting in the Army. After receiving a post in Germany for 3 years, Mr. Parra returned to Salinas in 1949, only to be called to active duty the following year to serve on the Korean peninsula.

As a forward observer for artillery, Mr. Parra found himself on the front lines fighting north across the 38th Parallel and up to Pyongyang. His unit was ordered farther north and halted about 50 miles away from the Chinese border to await supplies. Just three months after being deployed, Mr. Parra was killed in action after he bravely took over a machine gun whose operator had been killed to repel waves of advancing enemy infantry. Sergeant First Class Parra was buried alongside 150 fellow American soldiers in a North Korean field where local Koreans placed unmarked crosses above the fallen.

It took three years before his family learned of his courageous efforts in the moments before he was killed and decades longer until they learned the fate of his remains. In 1954, after three years in a prisoner-of-war camp Lt. Walter Mayo, Parra's commanding officer, wrote to Parra's family detailing how the young man from Salinas sacrificed his life protecting his unit. The prolonged wait to return Sergeant First Class Parra to the U.S. ultimately ended when a recent excavation of a burial field in North Korea turned up remains. As soon as the identity of the remains was confirmed, an Army sergeant was assigned to escort the body of Sergeant First Class Parra home. After an agonizing wait of over 60 years, in August 2009, his family was finally able to bury their fallen hero in Arlington Cemetery.

For his dedication and service, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Parra was awarded the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, the UN Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

U.S. Army SFC Jose "Roy" Parra was laid to rest with full military honors. Mr. Parra's sister, Lucille Withers, led the fight to identify and bury his remains.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to have the privilege to share his story with you today and on behalf of my colleagues, want to thank U.S. Army SFC Jose "Roy" Parra and his family for their service to our Nation.

HONORING THE SONOMA VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has long served as a spirited defender of the Valley's interests, by encouraging new indus-

try, organizing beautification projects and managing flood control efforts.

The Chamber began the evening of April 10, 1909, when 32 businessmen convened over dinner to discuss how they could stimulate commerce for the benefit of local merchants and professionals.

Membership quickly grew to 100 and the Chamber began their first initiatives, like publishing marketing material and establishing committees to begin tackling an ambitious agenda. In the early years, the Chamber called for transportation improvements and successfully lobbied Congress to protect a local federal facility from closure.

During the Great Depression, the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in addressing needs of a paralyzed business community. To generate renewed interest in the organization, the Chamber hosted an event benefitting street and driveway improvements.

In the subsequent years, the Chamber pioneered many efforts, including the creation of a commuter bus service to San Francisco, the endorsement of a municipal water system, support for State Parks and advocacy for underground utility and telephone lines. Notably, the Chamber raised local matching funds for a job stimulus program that was part of President Roosevelt's New Deal.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Chamber was designated as a farm labor office tasked with steering workers to local farmers. In the years following the war, the Chamber focused on supporting an adequate sewage system, the introduction of local hospital and the adoption of a zoning plan.

By mid-century, the Chamber hosted an industrial conference, boldly escalating efforts to bring new industry to the Valley.

Today the Chamber has expanded its membership to more than 700 leaders who continue to help ensure a thriving economy through advocacy, promotion, networking, education and services.

Operating under the mantra that "Strong businesses make strong communities", the Chamber hosts events, publishes a business magazine and offers comprehensive business, community and visitor resources. The Chamber also leads recognition efforts, honoring the business of the year and green businesses.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that I acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. In years to come, this organization will remain an integral and powerful force that continues to enrich the business community for the benefit of all Sonoma Valley residents.

RECOGNIZING THE 101ST ANNIVERSARY
OF THE POINT ARENA
LIGHT STATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the Point Arena Light Station on the magnificent Mendocino Coast in northern California.

A beacon to mariners since the original Point Arena Lighthouse was constructed in